



April 25, 2005

The Honorable Bill Thomas
U.S. House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: **Support of U.S.-D.R./CAFTA**

Dear Representative Thomas:

The California Retailers Association (CRA) was founded in 1933 to meet the needs of a growing company of retailers marketing a variety of goods in California. Today, CRA represents a broad base of retail companies throughout California. CRA member companies operate over 9,000 stores with sales in California exceeding \$100 billion annually. We write to you in **support** of the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

In order to keep Central America as a viable sourcing option for apparel retailers to take advantage of the region's quick-turnaround production, passage of CAFTA is crucial. Central American apparel manufacturers are our biggest export market and the advent of CAFTA will help lower the textile and clothing costs from Central America. This is a direct benefit to the US farmers growing the commodities to the retailers selling the manufactured products.

We can also support our neighbors by passing CAFTA. With Central America's close proximity to US markets, a competitive advantage can be gained against a strong Asian competitor. Only implementation of CAFTA will allow the region to capitalize on this, their biggest advantage.

CAFTA is good for California's retailers. We urge you to approve CAFTA and help retailers in California. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bill Dombrowski
President

WED:kp